

## Resurrection Part 10

Final lesson in the Resurrection series - So what does it all mean for us nowadays ?

### 1 Corinthians 15 : 58

- At the end of this long and dense chapter about the resurrection, Paul concludes in this way (very different to “sit back and relax while you wait for that glorious day of resurrection, you have your ticket that will get you into the new heaven and new earth, just don’t lose it and everything will be fine”)
- What we do now with our lives matters exactly because God has a great future in store for us
- What we do now is not in vain – it will last into the future

### Philippians 3 : 12-14

- Although the Resurrection had not yet come, Paul took hold of that life i.e. he began to live the reality of the Resurrection life in this Age
- 1 Timothy 6 : 11 - Paul instructs Timothy to take hold of the eternal life to which he was called at his point of baptism

### Philippians 3 : 20-21

- In Paul’s day, living as a Roman citizen in a colony like Philippi involved showing people around you what life in Rome was like
- As citizens of heaven, we are to live now as if we were already in the Age to Come

*Illustration about Ying Wisemans’ cooking. Noel and I think that she is the best cook in the whole world ! After the main courses, when she says “hold on to your forks” it meant that the best was yet to come ... delicious chocolate sponge cake !*

**Look at some specifics about what it means to live with “forks in our hand”, according to the values of the Resurrection Age, knowing that the best is yet to come.**

### 2 Corinthians 5 : 14-20

- Vs 18 better translated as “If anyone is in Christ – new creation !”
- When entering into the life of Christ at the point of baptism, we are immediately transformed into a breathing, living little bit of new creation which will be completed at the general resurrection
- Our current lives should reflect that future reality – we should live for Christ, compelled by his love
- And this should include being ambassadors of Christ, role modelling his life and calling people to be reconciled with God

Point # 1 : Living with our forks in hand means living as ambassadors of Christ, role modelling his way of life. It means asking the question “What would Jesus do ?” when we face choices.

### Hebrews 11 : 1

- Hebrews chapter 11 is the great chapter on Faith in the Bible. But faith in what ? The Resurrection.
- Underlying theme in Hebrews chapter 11 is the Resurrection - the writer does not mention the Resurrection but he does not need to
- And we find a number of pointers in Hebrews 11 about what it means to live with our forks in hand, in the certain hope of the Resurrection

### Vs 6

Point # 2 : Living with our forks in hand means believing that God exists AND that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

*If your dinner host tells you to keep your fork and you put it on your plate as the table is being cleared, it means one of two things – either you don't believe there is more to come, or you don't want the desert. We keep our forks because we believe that God will reward us with eternal life in the Age to Come.*

### Vs 8 – 10

- Abraham gave up everything he had, including his family
- In those days family was everything – security, identity, sense of worth and your inheritance
- He gave that all up and became centred on his inheritance from God

Point # 3 : Living with fork in hand means being willing to give up our sense of security and identity in the world and living out our new identity in God's family.

### Vs 11 – 12, 17-19

- Abraham's body was as good as dead but God gave him and Sarah new life in order to have Isaac, through whom His promise would be fulfilled
- When Abraham was tested by God he was willing to sacrifice Isaac, the one who was essential to the fulfilment of God's promises, because he knew if Isaac died, God would simply raise him to life again !

Point # 4 : Living with fork in hand means living with Resurrection faith

But faith is linked to hope and love and all three of these are tied in to the Resurrection.

### 1 Colossians 1 : 3-5

- "Hope" in the Bible refers to the certainty of the Resurrection – not a "I hope to get a good job or I hope that Bafana Bafana win their next match ...".
- It was an anticipation of something that was 100 % certain of happening
- Faith and love spring from this hope
- We are called to live in faith and love because of the hope of the Resurrection

### 1 Corinthians 13 : 8-13

- This follows a section on unity and love is seen as what will hold the church together when pressures threaten to pull it apart
- The time when perfection comes = the resurrection
- The church should work now on the things that will last into the future - faith hope and love
- Faith, hope and love provide a bridge from present Christian living into the new age / new creation

Point # 5 : Living with fork in hand means living in faith, hope and love

### Philippians 3 : 12-14

- The Resurrection inspired Paul to live for the future.
- He had deep regrets but he stayed focused on the future – living positively for God and staying focused on the prize of life in the Age to Come

Point # 6 : Living with fork in hand means living positive lives, looking forward rather than backwards. It means trusting that God has forgiven you and its being willing to forgive others who may have hurt you in the past.

How can we live the resurrected life now, as though we were already in God's restored world ?

### Ephesians 1 : 14-21

- As children of God, we can look forward to a future inheritance = life in the Age to Come
- God's Spirit in us is guarantees that future inheritance, and is also the power by which we can live according to the values of the Age to Come now. We can't do it on our own !

### Summary

- Those who are in Christ can be certain of being raised to bodily life after death
- We are called to take hold of that life NOW, to live joyful, positive lives now as salt and light in spite of the fallen world around us
- This is like living with our forks in hand anticipating the dessert after a great meal
- Living like this means (1) being as ambassadors of Christ, (2) believing that God will reward those who earnestly seek him, (3) giving up our worldly sources of security and committing to God's family, (4) living with resurrection faith, (5) growing in faith, hope and (especially) love, because we know that these values will last into the Age to Come, and (6) living for the future, not holding on to the past

**Do people around you ask why you have a fork in your hand all the time ?  
(not literally although that would be an interesting conversation starter ...)**

**Do people notice you are different ? Do they ask you why you are different ?**

**And are you willing to give the reason for the hope that you have ?**